

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A mail transfer agent adapted for determining the disposition of incoming e-mail from a sender includes a penalty count filter module which functions on the basis of current communication system resource usage, such as the number of concurrent TCP connections being maintained, and penalty counts assigned for cumulative undesirable sender activity such as sending large e-mail files. The penalty count filter module can operate in a selective-rejection state accepting e-mail from senders without a penalty count and randomly accepting other e-mail, and in a random-rejection state rejecting all e-mail from senders with a penalty count and randomly rejecting other e-mail. The rejection rates can be increased or decreased in response to a detected increase or decrease in the usage of system resources.